stopped w.e.f. 12.5.88 as a separate pool of accommodation comprising general pool houses already in occupation of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat employees has been created. No other separate pool has been created this year.

Water and Electricity connections to M.S. flats in Baba Kharak Singh Mark, New Delhi

2678. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the servant quarters for the use of allottees of Multi-storeyed flats, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi where Members of Parliament are also residing are ready for use;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the connection of water and electricity are yet to be given to these quarters; and

(c) if so, when these quarters are likely to be ready for handing over to the Directorate of Estates, New Delhi and for allotment to the allottees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The quarters will be handed over to the Directorate of Estates after the water and electricity connections are provided by the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

U.S. Grants to increase Food Productivity

2679. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Agriculture of United States has announced six research grants for purchase to support increased food productivity in India;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh got worth Rs. 1,97,130/- grants from U.S.; and

(c) if so, what are the areas where this loan is likely to be utilised by Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) During the year 1987-88, 34 research projects were sanctioned by USDA to support increased food productivity in India.

(b) Grants worth Rs. 19.71,000/- were sanctioned by USDA to Bhopal University. Bhopal for the implementation of a research project entitled "General Survey", systematics and the biology of fresh water prawns of Bhopal and Hoshangabad districts with special reference to the culture management of Macrobrachium Rosenbergic etc.

(c) These grants will be utilised in Bhopal and Hoshangabad districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Impact of strip mining on environment

2680. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a study of the extent of strip mining, if any, in the country and its impact on environment; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Strip mining which is essentially opencast mining of coal, lignite and other minerals

does have an impact on environment. Under the amended Mines and Minerals (Regulaton and Development) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, environmental management has been made an essential part of the mining activity and no mining lease can now be granted unless a mining plan, of which Environment Management Plan is a part, is approved by the Central Government. In addition, in respect of major public sector mining projects, the Environment Management Plans are appraised by an Expert Committee constituted by the Department of Environment.

Joint scheme for Housing Development in Southern India

2681. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAN FIN Homes Ltd. floated by the Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. jointly with Canara Bank is said to be engaged in housing development in Southern India;

(b) if so, the details of its present operations; and

(c) what is the investment planned/allocated/made by the company in each of the four Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Canara Bank has sponsored a housing finance company called CAN FIN Homes Ltd. alongwith Unit Trust of India, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. and Housing Development Finance Corporation, with an authorised capital of Rs. 50 crores and paid up capital of Rs. 10 crores. While Canara Bank's participation in the equity is 30 per cent, 36 per cent of the same is reserved for issue to the general public. CIN FIN Homes Ltd. operates in four Southern States and two Union Territories of Pondicherry and Delhi. Disbursements for housing loan made by CAN FIN Homes Ltd. during the last nine months is reported to be Rs. 1273.35 lakhs.

(c) CTN FIN HOMES Ltd.'s proposal for investment in the coming two years in the Southern States/Union Territories are as follows:

Name of the State/U.T.	Amount in lakhs of rupees
Karnataka	118.25
Kerala	38.25
Andhra Pradesh	51.50
Tamil Nadu	57.50
Pondicherry	4.50
Delhi	55.00

Capacity Utilisation by SAIL And TISCO

2682. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the capacity utilisation of SAIL vis a vis TISCO respectively; and

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement by TISCO Chairman to the effect that if TISCO capacity utilisation was as low as SAIL's, TISCO would have made a loss of Rs. 68.68 crores?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) The capacity utilisation of saleable steel in SAIL plants and